

CLAIMS

✓ 1. A protein derived from a mammal whose expression level in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) fluctuates with a circadian period.

5 2. A protein of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a human.

3. A protein of claim 1, wherein the mammal is a mouse.

✓ 4. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 1 or said sequence in which one or more amino acids are substituted, deleted, or added.

✓ 10 5. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) comprising the amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 2 or said sequence in which one or more amino acids are substituted, deleted, or added.

15 ✓ 6. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) encoded by the DNA having a sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 3 or by DNA that hybridizes with the DNA described in SEQ ID NO: 3.

✓ 20 7. A protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) encoded by the DNA having a sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 4 or by DNA that hybridizes with the DNA described in SEQ ID NO: 4.

8. DNA encoding the protein of any one of claims 1 to 5.

9. DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 3 or DNA that

25 hybridizes with the DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein the DNA encodes a protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN).

10. DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO: 4 or DNA that hybridizes with the DNA having the sequence described in SEQ ID NO:

30 4, wherein the DNA encodes a protein involved in the formation of circadian rhythm in the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN).

11. A vector carrying the DNA of any one of claims 8 to 10.

12. A transformant expressibly retaining the DNA of any one of claims 8 to 10.

35 13. A method for producing the protein of any one of claims 1 to 7, the method comprising culturing the transformant of claim 12.